

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 CU-04 H-03 INR-10 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /099 W  
----- 089061

R 191514Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6244

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2375

FOR EUR/SOV

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, UR, US, PINS (RUBIN, VITALIY)

SUBJ: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: VITALIY RUBIN

REF: STATE 29411 AND MATLOCK-DUBS LETTER OF FEB 7

1. PER STATE REFTTEL, EMBASSY PLANS TO INTERCEDE ASAP WITH MFA ON BEHALF RUBIN BUT PREFERS TO AVOID REFERENCE TO EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. REPRESENTATION WILL BE MADE BY CONSOFFS TO OFFICIALS OF MFA USA DIVISION WITH WHOM THEY DEAL ON CONSULAR AFFAIRS. THIS WILL PRESERVE MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION CHANNEL FOR USG REPRESENTATION LIST-FAMILY REUNIFICATION INTERCESSIONS AND MAINTAIN OPTION OF FUTURE APPROACH ON RUBIN CASE AT POLITICAL COUNSELOR OR HIGHER LEVEL. SINCE COLUMBIA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DE BARY APPEALED DIRECTLY TO CONSOFF TO RAISE MATTER WITH MFA, THIS ACTION WOULD AT SAME TIME BE IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE TO COLUMBIA REQUEST.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO PURPOSES OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT TO INVOKE THE AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF EXIT CASES SUCH AS RUBIN'S. RUBIN'S INTENT CLEARLY IS TO EMIGRATE, RATHER THAN TO GO FOR A TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL VISIT. AND IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL SOVIET ATTITUDE THAT PARTICIPANTS IN EXCHANGES SHOULD HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE SENDING SIDE, CITING  
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THE AGREEMENT WOULD RAISE WHAT IN SOVIET EYES IS A QUESTION OF

PRINCIPLE AND COULD THEREFORE HINDER RATHER THAN HELP RUBIN AND OTHERS IN HIS SITUATION.

3. RUBIN'S WIFE CONFIRMED TO US OVER WEEKEND THAT RUBIN TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER PROSPECTIVE JEWISH EMIGRANTS HAVE BEGUN HUNGER STRIKE IN MOSCOW APARTMENT IN ORDER TO BRING ATTENTION TO THEIR CASES.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT PROPOSE RAISING AT THIS TIME OTHER SPECIFIC CASES OF PROMINENT "DISSIDENTS" SEEKING EXIT VISAS TO GO TO US. RUBIN IS ONLY CASE, TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, WHERE US SPONSOR HAS ASKED OUR INTERCESSION ON URGENT BASIS (DE BARY LETTER). RUBIN WILL SERVE AS USEFUL TEST OF SOVIET REACTION WHILE DUST SETTLES FOLLOWING SOLZHENITSYN EXPULSION. REPORTS THAT DISSIDENT WRITER VALDIMIR MAKSIMOV (MOSCOW A-4) HAS RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION MIGHT BE SIGN THAT SOVIETS PREPARED CONSIDER OTHER CASES FAVORABLY (MOSCOW 2221, PARA 5), BUT JEWISH SOURCES SAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF TURNDOWNS IN MOSCOW IN LAST TWO WEEKS.

5. EMBASSY CONSIDERS ON OTHER HAND THAT IN ABSENCE MOVEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE IN PROMINENT CASES, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE WITH US SPONSORS (PANOVS AS EXCEPTION), FUTURE HIGH LEVEL APPROACH (E.G., TO FURTSEVA) MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED ON BASIS GENERAL CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES. SUCH APPROACH COULD AT LEAST ORALLY CITE EFFECT ON ATTITUDE OF US CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TOWARD US-SOVIET EXCHANGES AND ON GENERAL AMERICAN IMAGE OF USSR BY CONTINUED SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE IN THESE CASES.

6. PER REFERENCED LETTER, CAREFUL APPROACH CITED PARA ABOVE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE PARALLEL REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIVATE AND QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NAS TO SOVIET COUNTER-PARTS. IN EMBASSY EXPERIENCE, COMBINATION OF SUCH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE INTERCESSIONS OFTEN HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE IN DEMONSTRATING STRONG BROAD-BASED INTEREST WITHIN US IN EXIT VISA CASES. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE BELIEVE IREX IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE CHANNEL SINCE IT IS PRIMARILY AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND LIAISON OFFICE SET UP TO ADMINISTER EXCHANGE GRANTS AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES, RATHER THAN A SPOKESMAN ORGANIZATION FOR US ACADEMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNITY. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IT DOES NOT HAVE ENDORSING ROLE FOR PRIVATE EXCHANGE VISITS.

7. PER PARA 2 STATE REFTTEL, EMBASSY FILE CHECK HAS INDICATED NO RPT NO KNOWN CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN RUBIN CASE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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